

# THE AGAWAM

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AGAWAM, MA. 01001

ADVERTISER/NEWS

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Serving Agawam-Feeding Hills-Southwick

August 30, 1979

## Schools Open- Drive Carefully



Is the message presented by the Agawam Jr. Women's Club Safety Bug pictured at left. The Safety Bug gave children entering school for the first time a school bus tour. Assisting was Safety Officer Al Longhi. photo by Jack Devine

## Fire Department Exhausts Overtime Funds

Town Manager Peter Caputo summoned Fire Chief Harry Schneider to his office to discuss and seek a solution to the exhausting of the fire department's overtime account in less than two months.

### No Compensation

The issue became further complicated when Caputo declared that no fireman will receive compensation for operating the town's ambulance service, a department responsibility that is paid out of the overtime funds.

At the meeting, representatives of the Firemen's union "were cooperative," according to Caputo. The manager said the department would continue to man the ambulance on a voluntary basis. Caputo said the union agreed to the voluntary operation with the understanding there will be no guaranteed compensation forthcoming.

Caputo told the Advertiser/News that he will approach the Town Council next Tuesday to secure funding for the depleted overtime account.

### Wants Additional Funding

The Council had allocated \$25,000 in overtime for fiscal year 1979-1980 which began on July 1 of this year. Caputo disclosed that Schneider asked for \$50,000 in additional funding at the meeting. However, argued Caputo, "there is no way I will recommend to the Council \$50,000 be transferred. I was thinking about half of that, maybe in the range of \$17-18,000."

Caputo maintained that his not granting the ambulance crew guaranteed compensation at some future date was a "matter of the law. It's a violation of the law to pay for people working when they are no funds to pay them," he declared.

The Tuesday afternoon session was also attended by Town Account Carol Taylor and Town Treasurer David Gallano.

### Union Very Cooperative

Caputo said the Fireman's Union were not only cooperative but were more than willing to iron out the problems that caused the funding shortage.

Caputo said he is currently conducting a study to determine alternatives for operating the ambulance service. He said there will be some reassignment of personnel, which includes moving a drill instructor, a mechanic and inspector into line duties.

Caputo attributed the overtime seige as spinoff of summer vacations and sick days. He further cited a contract proviso that was formulated during the selectmen period, as putting the town in a complicated position.

The town must have eleven firefighters on duty at all times. When a replacement is called, the town pays time and a half according to the firefighters contract.

### Fighting Proviso

"We've been fighting that proviso for some time now but it's a difficult thing, because it appears in the con-

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## Council Again Refutes Racetrack

Propelled by a recommendation from State Representative Edward Connelly and the legal advice of Town Attorney Lambert Ollari, the town Council passed a resolution asking that the state Racing Commission not issue the town harness racing dates "because the raceway would be a detriment to the public good."

### At Workshop

The resolution, co-sponsored by Councilor Paul Paleologopoulos and Council President Richard Theroux, came at a workshop session of that body Monday evening at the Cooper Street Library.

The resolution officially puts the Council on record as being opposed to Pioneer Valley Raceway Inc.'s latest proposal to bring harness racing to the Bowles Airport site from October 23rd to December 31.

And typical of the local worry about the 287 acre site sparked a proposal from veteran Councilor Paul Fieldstad to establish a committee charged with studying and developing a plan that may make it possible for the community to purchase the parcel now owned by the Republican Company...the same outfit that owns the Springfield Newspapers.

### Barnes Calls for Referendum

Meanwhile, on a third front, Councilor Kenneth Barnes recommended that a townwide referendum be held in order for the community to be placed on record as being either for or against para-mutual racing.

Barnes added that if the town cannot legally conduct a referendum on the racetrack issue for the November 6th ballot, then the Council should take the initiative to run its own special election prior to the November balloting.

Ollari told the Council that the State Racing Commission will base their decision on a 1977 Hampden County referendum that allows racing into this area. The solicitor further pointed out that Agawam conducted racing some 50 years ago at the Bowles site and the case could be made that this legally proves town fathers agreed to para-mutual racing.

### No Documents in Sight

Town Clerk Edward Caba stated that no documents could be produced to verify that legal racing was approved in the 1930's, prompting Ollari to reply, "as ridiculous as it may sound, this could hold up in court based on two previous test cases. The State Racing Commission does not have the authority to decide if the town should or should not get racing but just the power to issue dates based on past site approval."

Theroux explained that while the resolution was not legally binding, it would reinforce the town's position with the racing commission. The state agency held a standing room only public hearing on the \$3.5 million enterprise August 20.

Town Manager Peter Caputo said his office is preparing for court action against the Commonwealth and the racing commission if a decision is rendered in Pioneer Valley Inc.'s favor. Connelly said he would support the court suit. At the public hearing, State Senator Alan Sisitsky promised legislative action to negate commission approval of the proposed 70 racing dates for the community.

### Fieldstad the Outspoken

Fieldstad, perhaps the most outspoken Councilor against the race track and other large scale development in Agawam predicted: "If we as a town don't do something about Bowles Airport another group will try to come in before we know it."

Fieldstad received Council approval to establish the 5

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# School Time

## Opening Day At High School

On opening day of school, Wednesday, September 5th, Agawam High School juniors and seniors are asked to report to their last years home rooms to pick up their program cards and then to report to their A period class. New junior and senior students are to receive their program cards in the main office.

All sophomores will pick up their program cards in the main lobby or in the auditorium at tables that will be arranged in alphabetical groups. Sophomores are then to remain in the auditorium for introductory comments and orientation.

The high school begins at 7:35 a.m. this year.

## High School Magazine Drive

During the period September 7 through September 17, the Agawam High School will be holding a magazine drive. In the past the Agawam Middle School has conducted this sale but has agreed to discontinue it so that the senior class may have the opportunity of enlarging its treasury.

During the years, it has become increasingly difficult to obtain payment of class dues from a large portion of the student body. Now, in order to be eligible to take part in various senior activities, the student must have sold a given amount of magazines (as yet undetermined by the Class of 1980) or he must have paid his dues.

The following items are among those that will be paid for by the receipts of the magazine drive: senior banquet, junior/senior prom, graduation caps and gowns, Kid Party, class gift.

## Parents' Coffee Hour to be Held at High School

An informal coffee hour with the principal is held the first Thursday of each month that school is in session from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. in the Agawam High School Library. The meetings are held to open lines of communications between the high school administration and parents and interested members of the community. The sessions allow parents to ask questions, make suggestions, and air gripes and concerns as well as providing the opportunity to learn about school programs, to tour the building, and to visit classes.

The first coffee hour of the year will be held on Thursday, September 6.

## School Lunch Menus

### AGAWAM LUNCH MENU

**Wednesday, Sept. 5:** Chilled juice, 1/2 chicken salad sandwich, 1/2 peanut butter & jelly sandwich, tossed salad with shredded carrots and french dressing, chilled fruit cup in syrup, milk.

**Thursday, Sept. 6:** Cold cut grinder w/cheese & lettuce, sliced tomatoes, oven french fries w/ketchup, fruited jello w/whip topping, milk.

**Friday, Sept. 7:** Chilled fruit juice, tuna & cheese boat, pickle chips, buttered kernel corn, ice cream sandwich, milk.

**Monday, Sept. 10:** Grilled cheese sandwich, buttered mix vegetables, 1/2 peanut butter sandwich for seconds, chilled apple sauce, milk.

**Jr. and Sr. High will have Toasted Bologna & Cheese Sandwich in Roll**

**Tuesday, Sept. 11:** Chilled fruit juice, hamburger in roll, steamed butter rice, with green peas garnish, diced carrots, mustard, relish, ketchup, chocolate cake w/vanilla icing, milk.

**Wednesday, Sept. 12:** Steamed frankfort in roll, mustard & relish, oven baked beans, french fries, ketchup, chilled peaches in syrup, milk.

**Thursday, Sept. 13:** Hamburg gravy on mashed potatoes, buttered sweet peas, whole wheat bread and butter, sweet potato cake w/vanilla icing, milk.

**Friday, Sept. 14:** Cod fish kabobs w/tartar sauce or ketchup, oven french fries, creamy cabbage & carrot salad, ice cream cup, milk.

### SOUTHWICK LUNCH MENU

**Wednesday** Oven baked frankfurter on roll, catsup, mustard and sweet relish, potato chips, buttered green beans, chilled peaches and milk.

**Thursday** Cheeseburger on bun, catsup, mustard and pickle chip, french fries, sliced tomato and lettuce salad, cookies and milk.

**Friday** Golden fried fish, tartar sauce, parsley buttered potatoes, tossed green salad with dressing, chilled applesauce, bread and butter, and milk.

## Senior Center Wright St., Agawam

### SR. CENTER MENU

9/4: Sheppard's pie, lettuce, cobbler

9/5: Chicken, rice, green beans, pudding

9/6: Baked beans, wiener, coleslaw, cake

9/7: Fish, potato salad, spinach, fresh fruit

Hypertension clinic: September 4, for A-L ONLY!!

Hypertension clinic: September 18, names starting with M-Z. Nurses foot clinic: September 20.

On September 11, we will go to the Quincy Market in Boston. For lunch everyone is on his own. Before we go home we will visit the Boston Tea Party Museum (a boat) where we will have wine and cheese on deck as refreshments. Price only \$6.75.

We are starting a new class after Labor Day weaving trays, lampshades, candle holders and etc out of plastic reed. The class will be limited to 12. This is an easy craft to learn, and once you know how, there are many things you can make on your own at home. We have samples here at the Center, so come, look, and sign up!!

Dr. Haynes footclinic will be held on September 5, 1979. By appointment only!!

Our new Ceramic classes will start September 6. Mrs. Jerry Loehn is familiar with all techniques, so you can learn any technique you are interested in. Classes will be limited to 15, so sign up soon. First class for orientation is Thursday afternoon, September 6 at 1 p.m.

## Golden Agers' Highlights

The Agawam Golden Agers and friends 200 strong had a swinging afternoon Wednesday, August 13th at Stanley Park in Westfield. The Purple Onion Caters of Agawam served a delicious buffet. We sure enjoyed the dessert table.

Norma Turcotte and Trudy St. Pierre entertained us singing our old favorites. Later The Page Boulevard Steppers invited The Agawam Swingers to fill out a few sets of square dancing. Norman Chaquette our caller kept us swinging all afternoon.

The Agawam Golden Agers held their regular meeting August 23rd at the Senior Center on Wright Street. Johanne Presser entertained us. What a beautiful voice that girl has. Hilda Weins and her gang served delicious refreshments. The board of Directors has voted that any member behind in their dues over one year shall be dropped. At our next meeting, September 12, we will play bingo.

## Riverside

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MICHAEL MURPHY  
MARIEL HEMINGWAY  
JERYL STREEP  
ANNE BYRNE

**CLOSED LABOR DAY**

Week of  
Sept. 3

The Agawam Advertiser/News is published every Tuesday by P.A.G. Publications, Inc. (USPS 001-170), 26 North Westfield Street, Feeding Hills, Mass. 01030. Second Class postage paid at Feeding Hills, Mass. Post Office, 01030. Mailing address: P.O. Box 233, Agawam, Mass. 01001. Telephone No. (413) 786-7747. Subscription price \$5.50 per year mailed second class. Newsstand price \$.15 per copy. Copyright 1979 P.A.G. Publications, Inc.

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## Retired Medical Insurance Policy "Matter for the Council"

Town Attorney Lambert Ollari has recently ruled that the decision to provide retired municipal employees with Blue Cross-Blue Shield coverage is a policy matter for the Council, according to Town Manager Peter Caputo.

### Nardi Proposal

Ollari's ruling came in lieu of a proposal sponsored by Councilor Frederick Nardi to provide some 286 retired employees with 50 percent medical insurance coverage at the cost of approximately \$33,000 to the community.

Commented Caputo on the ruling, "it's simply a policy matter for the Council to consider and there are various ways for them to go about it."

Caputo said he would recommend that the medical insurance be provided on a blanket basis to ensure that all town employees received the same benefits.

The manager added that the plan could be granted under union negotiations. "If we dealt with people on an individual basis, it would create quite a paper problem for us," Caputo told the Advertiser/News.

### Release Town of Responsibility

Caputo suggested that a proviso be included stipulating that when a retired employee becomes eligible for Medicare, the town would then be released of its responsibility for insurance costs.

At the Council's August 7th meeting, Nardi's proposal was tabled after Councilor Paul Fieldstad recommended that the town assume responsibility for the 268 retired employees and then negotiate a separate settlement for present municipal workers.

Explained Fieldstad, "My position five years ago was to negotiate this matter with the unions. But the retired employees have no one to represent them at this time, and when they worked, there were no unions, binding arbitration or even civil service for that matter. I just want to make sure these people are covered."

### Benefits Owed to People

Nardi's proposal, which is expected to be reviewed at the Council's September 4th session is, according to the veteran legislator, "something that the community owes to the people that served the town's government so well."

"Most industries will pay 100 percent of their retirees' benefits, and I certainly do believe that the town can assume 50 percent of the costs to implement this plan," Nardi commented to his colleagues.

Because a recently passed state law allows cities and towns to assume responsibility for paying retirees' medical insurance costs, Nardi presented the resolution before the Council for the second time.

Two years ago, the precinct one Councilor withdrew a similar plan at a cost of approximately \$55,000. At the time, Massachusetts laws forbid such a municipal move. Nardi said that a study is now being conducted to determine possible rate increases in the future.

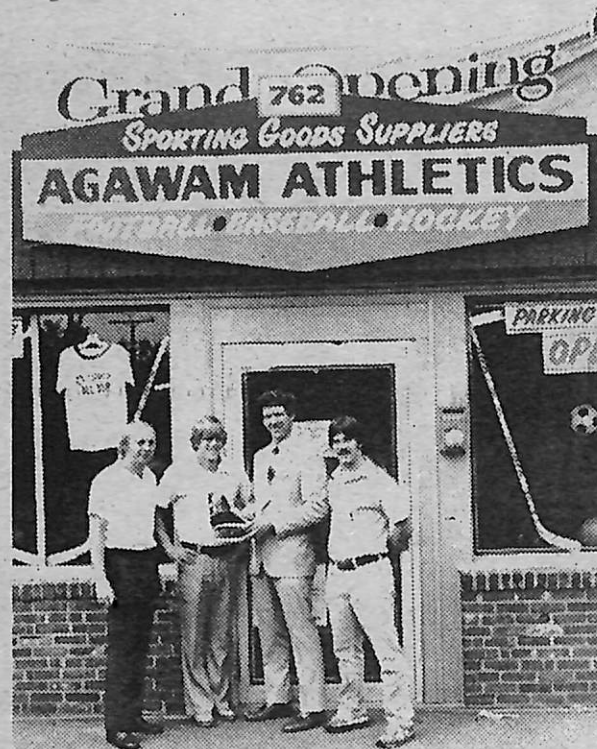
### Eligible for Retirement

Nardi agreed with Caputo on releasing town hall of insurance responsibilities once the retiree becomes eligible for Medicaid at age 65. Town workers become officially eligible for retirement if they suffer a disability while on the job or after 20 years of employment.

When asked about the Nardi proposal, Councilor Donald Ladizinski told the Advertiser/News, "right now, I'm just trying to find out what other towns are doing about this. And not all the facts have been brought forth yet."

Continued Ladizinski, "this kind of insurance plan has got big metropolitan cities in financial trouble. I'm just trying to look at this thing from a business aspect and will make my decision on what I think will be the best financial choice for the town."

## Agawam Athletics Grand Opening



Agawam Athletics, 762 Springfield Street, Feeding Hills, recently celebrated their grand opening. On hand for the celebration was Kevin Collins, NHL referee, Springfield native, and former A.I.C. hockey star. Pictured from left to right are: Tom Gagne, Dave Butover, Kevin Collins, and Preston Perrault, one of the owners of Agawam Athletics. Preston and his partner Richie Snyder, also of Agawam, invite everyone to visit their store and compare their quality products and low prices.

## Tailgate & Crafts Sale

September 8, 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM Buy wares from local hobbyists, craftsmen and collectors, outdoors at the Village School Grounds on Route 57 in Granville, Mass. The Ladies Aid of the Federated Church sponsors the sale in the rural, apple-growing community. Admission is free. Refreshments and homebaked goods are available. Bring a carload of friends to save energy and plan to spend a relaxing day in the beautiful hills of Granville. Rain date September 15.



# GRAND OPENING



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# Social

## Bradford-Ramponi Wedding



Mrs. Richard Ramponi

Ruth Elizabeth Bradford became the bride of Richard Wayne Ramponi in a candlelight ceremony at Valley Community Church in Feeding Hills on Saturday, August 18th.

The bride is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Wesley Bradford, 21 Oxford Street, Agawam. She graduated from Agawam High School and S.T.C.C. as a registered nurse and she works at Heritage Hall Nursing Home.

The groom is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Richard A. Ramponi, 105 Poplar Street, Feeding Hills. Also graduated from Agawam High School he attended S.T.C.C. He is a firefighter employed by the Town of Wilbraham and a sales associate with Gove Realty Agawam.

The bride's sister, Laura Bradford, served as her maid of honor. Mrs. Susan Atwater, Kathy Kennedy and Sally Williams attended as bridesmaids. The groom's brother, Robert Ramponi, served as his bestman. Forrest Bradford, Richard Bosini and Kenneth St. Peter attended as groomsmen. Flowergirls were Paula and Danielle Fieldstad. A reception at the Colosseum Banquet House followed the ceremony.

Mr. and Mrs. Richard W. Ramponi will reside in Wilbraham.

## St. Anthony's Bar-b-que Planned



Members of the St. Anthony's bar-b-que committee are pictured above. From left to right: "Gubby" Borgatti, Chairman; Tony Harrison, sampling chicken; Dorothy Pilegi, Kitchen Chairman; and Paul Ferrarini, Holy Name President. photo by Jack Devine

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## Agawam Class of '69 Announces Reunion

On October 27, Agawam High School's 1969 graduating class will hold its 10 year reunion dinner dance.

The evening will feature a social hour at seven, dinner at eight and dancing from nine till one.

The reunion committee has had difficulty locating the following class members: Rick Aramburn, Barry Baldwin, Diane Baker, Diana Corbin, Michaeline Dalton, Theresa Everest, Bill Foley, Barbara George, Robert Gosselin, Robert Juliano, Donald Lederer, Linda Mabrey, Thomas Mayfield, Henry Meade, Bonnie Millar, Lucille Moccio, Nancy Osolinski, Cheryl Pomeroy, Shirley Ross, Bobby Quinn and Theresa Trimboli.

If anyone knows the address of any of the aforementioned people they are asked to call one of these numbers: 786-5806, 786-9425, or 567-1129.

**Don't Take  
Chances With  
Your Children.  
Immunize  
Them Now!!!!**

## Agawam Repertory Theatre Auditions

The Agawam Repertory Theatre will hold auditions for their fall show, "Play It Again Sam", on Thursday, August 30 and Friday, August 31, 1979 at the Agawam Public Library (near High School) at 7:00 p.m.

The popular play by Woody Allen has parts for 3 men and 9 women. We are especially searching for a character to play the part of Humphrey Bogart.

Auditions are open to the general public, stage experience or the lack of it, is unimportant. Show dates are expected to be late October and November.

For information call: Irene 786-9281, Galen 569-5148 or Walt 569-3128.

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## Christopher Hout Chooses Army Green

Christopher Hout, son of Mr. and Mrs. Donald Hout of Feeding Hills, has enlisted in the U.S. Army under the Delayed Entry Program. He will report to Fort McClelland, Alabama on October 9 for basic training.

Mr. Hout enlisted as an Military Policeman. Once he has completed basic training, he will attend Military Police school at the same base, according to his recruiter, Staff Sergeant Allen Cudd, of the Agawam Recruiting Office. "Chris came by to see me in March and said he was interested in the Military Police field," Sergeant Cudd said. "Enlisting under the Delayed Entry Program enabled him to finish out the summer and get things set for when he leaves for active duty."

Mr. Hout is a 1979 graduate of Agawam High School and was active with the high school baseball team.

Sergeant Cudd noted that Mr. Hout is the eighth member of the 1979 senior class at Agawam High to join the Army. Several have already gone on to basic training and three are still in the Delayed Entry Program until September.

Under the Delayed Entry Program (DEP) individuals may join the Army and take up to 12 months to go on active duty. This allows enlistees to be more selective in the type of training they want and also permits them to finish school or work.

For further information, please contact Staff Sergeants Allen Cudd or Bob Lewis at the Agawam Recruiting Office, 335 Walnut Street Extension, or call 789-1577.

## ERA Suburban R.E. Receives Award

The Consumer Research Bureau announced today that ERA Suburban Real Estate was presented the 1979 Excellence Award for Customer Relations. This annual award is given to business establishments for providing the highest levels of consumer satisfaction.

Organized in 1964 for public service, the Bureau is dedicated to monitoring and raising the standards of Real Estate firms who serve the public. Each year, hundreds of thousands of survey questionnaires are mailed to recent home purchasers requesting their evaluation of the services they received.

ERA Suburban Real Estate has merited the 1979 Award because of their continuing efforts to attain and maintain an excellent consumer relationship.

Owned by Chester J. Nicora, Jr. Realtor, GRI, CRS, ERA Suburban Real Estate has offices located at 289 Springfield Street in Agawam, and 350 Elm Street in Westfield.

## Monthly Checks to Arrive Aug. 31

Agawam Postmaster Robert R. DeForge has advised that Social Security Benefit, VA Compensation and Pension and Supplemental Security Income checks are to be delivered on Friday August 31.

### COMMUNITY CALENDAR

#### September 5, 1979

Feeding Hills  
Women's Club  
Grange Hall  
No. West St., F.H.  
8 p.m.

August 30-31, 1979  
Agawam Repertory  
Theatre Auditions  
Agawam Public  
Library  
7 p.m.

#### September 2, 1979

St. Anthony's Church  
Chicken Bar-b-que  
Polish American Club  
Southwick St., F.H.  
Noon - 4 p.m.

September 8, 1979  
Community Grange  
Meeting  
North West St.  
8 p.m.

#### September 8, 1979

Scleroderma Benefit  
Clambake  
Brozka's Grove  
Rt. 202, Southwick  
11 a.m. - 6 p.m.

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## Agawam Jrs. Hold Coffee Hour

A Membership Coffee Hour will be held on September 7 from 10 a.m. to 12 noon at the Town Library in Agawam.

Mrs. Kay Wurga of Feeding Hills will demonstrate dried flower arranging.

Pre-schoolers will be treated to a story hour while mothers enjoy refreshments, have a relaxing morning out, and learn more about "Those Juniors" of the Agawam Junior Women's Club.

## Community Grange To Meet

Community Grange will meet Tuesday evening, September 4, at 8:00 p.m. in the Grange Hall on No. West St.

1979 is the 100th anniversary of Thomas Edison's most famous invention--the first incandescent light bulb. The program is being planned around the event. Brief talks about his life, his inventions and the museums which commemorate his work will be reported upon by members of the grange.

A social hour will follow the program. Mrs. Muriel Thayer is chairperson of the refreshment committee assisted by Mr. and Mrs. Roland Vincelette.

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## Westfield Savings Bank

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26 ARNOLD STREET  
WESTFIELD

206 PARK STREET  
WEST SPRINGFIELD

655 MAIN STREET  
AGAWAM



## Race Track...continued from page 1

member committee who would spend approximately three months "looking into all the business prospects for the airport." The committee will be appointed by Caputo.

According to Fieldstad, the possibility exists for the town to expand the Bowles Airport which in turn would lead to small scale industrial growth and added tax revenue. He told his colleagues that the Federal Aviation Commission would fund the property's purchase on an 80 percent-20 percent basis. Fieldstad said the town would have to bond to pay its 20 percent, but he added, "It's a perfect spot to put in small industry. Everyone in town is always talking about increasing our tax base and it's up to the Council to take a positive step."

## Expand to Airport

According to the long time legislator, at least four local firms have indicated they will expand their businesses to the airport site. "And two of them said they will put it in writing," he quipped.

While most councilors in attendance acknowledged that the Theroux-Paleologopoulos motion was a good one, Barnes said, "paper proposals don't mean anything. If people are really looking to put this thing to bed, let's put it out to referendum."

The precinct three Councilor said the \$3,000 expense to the community to conduct a special election, if a referendum question cannot be placed on the November ballot, "is something that will be worth it." At press time, the Advertiser/News could not reach Caba for a ruling on the referendum question.

According to Council Vice President Francis Colli, town Building Inspector Joseph Conte informed him that local zoning by-laws do not permit a race track in that parcel.

Said Colli, "we should investigate our zoning laws and see if we can't come up with something there." Colli also stated that in this instance, a vote or referendum question "won't make a bit of difference" in the racing commission's decision.

## Sent Copies to King

That much publicized decision is slated to be made within the next few weeks. Theroux said copies of the Council's latest action will be sent to Governor Edward King, Racing Commission Chairman Paul Walsh, and Connelly and Sisitsky.

At the August 20th hearing, Walsh told the 900 residents jammed into the junior high auditorium that public response is only one aspect of the commission's overall consideration and the case could be made that this was a true indication that town fathers agreed to para-mutual harness racing back in the 1930's, although Caba told the commissioners that no documents could be produced to verify that fact.

## Fire Department...continued from page 1

tract and has for a long time," Caputo said of the manpower clause.

The town's chief executive termed the current situation, "as being a serious problem with department head personnel," adding, "I expect the department heads to closely monitor their overtime expenditures."

He told the Advertiser/News that he will advise the council that the additional overtime funds be taken from other Fire Department programs. According to Schneider, the department's long time chief, this is the first week the department has been running without the availability of overtime funds.

## No Conditions

The fire department spent \$35,000 in overtime a year ago. Caputo said he made it clear to Schneider that under no conditions will he tolerate a recurrence of the present dilemma.

Beginning this year, the fire department assumed sole responsibility for the ambulance service. Previously, the ambulance service was shared by both departments.

When contacted by the Advertiser/News about the meeting with Caputo and the current situation, Schneider would not comment.

## Administrative Affair

Caputo denied that there were growing rifts between his office and Schneider's, and pointed out that the overtime shortage is an administrative matter and will be worked out with the cooperation of all parties involved.



Gary F. Johnson

## Johnson Joins Mass Mutual

Gary F. Johnson, of Agawam, has joined Massachusetts Mutual Life Insurance Company as superintendent of advanced sales in the Agency Division, it was announced recently.

A native of Kansas City, Mo., Johnson received a BA degree summa cum laude from the University of Missouri and a JD from the National Law Center, George Washington University.

Prior to joining the company, he was a management assistant with Connecticut General Life Insurance Corporation in Kansas City and worked as a legal assistant with the U.S. Department of Labor and the United Mine Workers Health and Retirement Fund.

Johnson has been active in a number of civic organizations including the NAACP and the Kansas City Urban League Job Consortium.

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Edward Gallerani

Arthur Gallerani





Members of Agawam Children Theatre pictured above are: standing: Jerilyn Sullivan, Karlene Smola, Karla Tingle, Tom Sullivan, Kelly Dinneen, Noreen Sands and Melissa Sullivan. Middle row: Jennifer Kelley, Laura Jean DiFlumera, Jonathan Tingle, John Benjamin, and Jackie Blakesley. Front row, same order: Danny Dietschler, Michelle Willard, Kelly Sullivan, and John Davis. photo by Jack Devine

## Agawam Children's Theatre

The Agawam Children's Theatre was formed with the express idea of allowing children to experience all the unique aspects of theatre.

It is very common to find a Children's Theatre composed of adult actors performing for children. It is not common, however, to find child actors performing for adults (and other children).

We are all aware of how wonderfully creative a child's imagination is, but not all of us are aware that when they play, they are very often creating a dramatic moment. They create characters for themselves and sometimes, for imaginary friends. They give these

characters names and costumes. They add plots and, most usually, happy endings. They have created Theatre. For this reason, we have created the Agawam Children's Theatre.

A.C.T. represents a growth in Children's Theatres. We are happy to see the interest it has stirred up. And we would like to take this opportunity to thank all the parents and friends for that interest and for your support.

We will be starting weekday classes in September, so look for our new Fall schedule.

## Agawam Teacher Writes for Magazine

Ann Favreau, a kindergarten teacher at Granger School, is now writing for **EARLY YEARS** magazine. Her monthly column entitled **Pot Luck** will be read nationally by teachers through grade three. In it Mrs. Favreau expands cooking ideas into almost every curriculum area.

Kindergartners at Granger School have had lots of learning fun with the Gingerbread Man, banana submarines, Rudolph sandwiches. Each year parents agree to support the program at ten cents a week. The children are introduced to nutritional snack ideas and new tastes. It is a learning experience that correlates with the basic curriculum and children's literature. Now teachers all over the country will be trying these ideas.

Mrs. Favreau has been presenting workshops for teachers in Massachusetts and Connecticut. She was this year's recipient of the Agawam Jaycees Educator of the Year Award.

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# Editorials



## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor:

It is regrettable that the Agawam Town Manager in an attempt to cloud the issue relative to his faulty claims on his resume, saw fit to raise the smokescreen that this was a conspiracy by those who are in favor of a Mayor-Council form of government.

I am on record as being in favor of the Mayor-Council form and I take offense at the suggestion that I am a part of any conspiracy. I am in favor of allowing the people of our town make an honest choice as to whether they want to continue to have the top place on our government go to a stranger from out of town or to a resident who has some experience in our local government and understands the workings of our town. The present Manager by trying to tear down this idea speaks from a conflict of interest and cannot be objective because he makes his living from the Manager-Council form of government.

It is unfortunate that the Town Council, in review of his resume, did not give greater consideration to the Agawam Charter which indicates that in choosing a manager he must be "educationally qualified". Nowhere to my knowledge, does the Charter state or imply that "life experience" make a person educationally qualified. Such tampering with the Charter does not inspire the college students to hit the books for four years to make \$15,000 when you can make \$30,000 by a "degree" from a diploma mill.

It was reported that the Latin words of the "Rochdale College" diploma translated meant "Let the buyer beware." Let me say in plain English, "Let the voters beware."

It is hoped that the great crowd that protested the racetrack issue will voice a strong vote on the Mayor-Council issue on November 6, 1979. Put to rest the empty charge of a conspiracy.

Sincerely,  
Rev. Benjamin T. Lockhart  
Vice Chairman of the Agawam Charter Commission

Dear Editor:

I, and all citizens of Massachusetts, have endured a series of campaign promises to reduce taxes. The promises have been broken consistently, the latest being the promise to roll back property taxes by \$500 million. Tax relief should not be a dream or a convenient political promise—it should be a reality! The only way taxes can be lowered is with your help.

TAX-AX, the initiative petition I and my fellow Republican members are sponsoring, will provide just such relief. By eliminating the 7½ percent surtax on income and by increasing exemptions for families, persons over 65 and married couples and by increasing the no tax status, taxpayers will save anywhere from 7 to 62 percent in income taxes. This savings adds up to \$318 million in tax relief. Also thousands of jobs will be created in the private sector due to this new flow of money into the Massachusetts economy. This tax plan is no campaign promise. It is a concrete program providing income tax relief that we all need desperately. Although the plan was rejected by the members of the Democrat-controlled legislature during the budget debates, we all know you, the voters, will react favorably if given the opportunity.

Support TAX-AX. Sign the petition sheets in the fall when we hit the streets with them. And, if you are seriously concerned about tax relief, help us.

For information on the drive, contact Representative William G. Robinson at 727-2375 or 665-5550. Together let's send our message back to the legislature: stop spending and cut our taxes!

Join TAX-AX.

Sincerely William G. Robinson  
Republican Floor Leader

Dear Editor:

I, like Ric Sardella, have been in favor of the Manager-Council form of government for our town. Being idealistic, I thought this form would insure getting the best person to run our town based on this individual's experience, educational background, and integrity. I thought that politics would be removed from this individual, and that the council and manager would rather be checks on each other that would benefit the town. I voted for councilmen that I believed in and that I thought held some of my values and ideas.

I, like Councilman DeForge, value education, have experienced the length of time required, and know the high cost of procuring any degree. I thought there would be other councilmen that thought that way too. I'm disappointed that the other councilmen seem to have chosen politics over sensible judgment. I, as an

Agawam citizen, feel I've been had; and that our present council (excluding Mr. DeForge) has displayed a poor example of government and educational value to our town's young people.

Sincerely,  
Irene Thomas  
Agawam educator and mother of two college students.

To the Editor:  
*No where else but Agawam*

When we the voters of Agawam approved the change from Selectman to a Town manager form of Government, we did so under false pretences because we were in fact at that time sold a bill of goods by the Chairman of the Charter Commission who assured us that with this new Government we would still remain a Town. Space does not permit going into detail concerning the difference between a Town Manager and a City Manager or Council-Manager form of Government. The latter is what we were sold, a Town Manager form is what we thought we were buying. However that is History now.

The past six years have proven that something is wrong. For six years the eyes of many other Towns have been on Agawam in hopes of finding an example to follow. We all know what has happened and Agawam has become the laughing stock of the country. Under our first Manager, among other things we got a "Drive up Police Station" and now we have another Manager. Though others are laughing I fail to see the humor in the situation but rather am shocked and disturbed to think that 12 supposedly intelligent Councilors who are charged with the responsibility of representing the Taxpayers would give a Unanimous Vote of Confidence to an individual who it has been proven Purchased his College Degree. What a slap in the face to all those who have worked so hard and sacrificed to attend College and Earn a Degree. What motivated this Unanimous Vote? Itchy backs? I don't know, but I do know that 2 and 2 still makes four.

This manager stated on several occasions that he is an ordained Episcopal Deacon. Many of us feel that this time we could expect an element of integrity with a deacon of the church at the helm. No so it seems and the twelve councilors who are a party to this must know that it was not just "human error" when the bachelor of arts degree that was purchased for \$25.00 says on it, "Let the Buyer Beware."

In many instances when one fills out an application for employment, the application states that false information will result in immediate dismissal. Not so in Agawam.

What an example these twelve councilors have given to those students in school at the present time. No need to study, we can buy our degree. Very sad.

A.D.  
Agawam

### Town doesn't need rec centers

\$10,000 is a substantial municipal bundle, and the Agawam Town Council has been asked to remove that sum from the General Reserve Fund and into the Parks Department coffers by Elaine Bonavita, a candidate for Councilor-at-large in the upcoming November election.

#### Hang Around a Dark Alleyway

Ms. Bonavita apparently contends that because "street children" in this community have no where to go except to loiter on a street corner or hang around a dark alleyway, the town should spend that dough to open a number of youth recreation centers to ward off further problems with the kids of the street.

Ms. Bonavita's point is well taken, if Agawam was located in inner city New York or Detroit.

But this is Agawam of Western Massachusetts fame and not an urban ghetto. Do we have problems of roving bands of ruffians? Or is it just a small group of troublemakers?...Troublemakers who should have their bottoms warmed or perhaps need to spend a night or two in Stanley Chmielewski's clink to cure them of their knack for mischief, or in some cases, vandalism.

#### Youths Have Wide Choice

This is Agawam...the same community that offers its youth more extra curricular opportunities than any other community in this area.

This is Agawam...where the Agawam Athletic Association, the Agawam Hockey Association, the Sacred Heart Athletic Association, Little League East, and of course, our own Parks and Rec Department provide youngsters with more sprots than any other community in the area.

Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, the 4H Club, Sea Scouts, Cub Scouts, Brownies, the Agawam YMCA and the Agawam Youth Center and Youth Commission continue the parade of activities available to local youth.

And these do not include the wide assortment of organizations, sports, and other youth related activities the school department offers the kids. In fact, there are so many youth activities in this community that it's becoming difficult to find enough adult volunteers to run them.

# VIEWPOINT

## Unanimous Vote of Confidence a Surprise

by Ric Sardella

Let's face it...the Town Council's decision to term Peter Caputo's resume a product of "human error" and then in unison, issue the Manager a vote of confidence came as quite a surprise to many observers and also to those of us who support him as municipal chief.

The unanimous verdict was startling because prior to the executive session at the junior high school, the outlook for Caputo appeared to be bleak. The charges were mounting and his public explanations left questions unanswered.

Even the most avid of Caputo supporters and supporters of our present form of government were readying themselves for a quick exit into the four winds. At the very least, many of us expected a split vote or perhaps a council investigation of Caputo's academic credentials...the same credentials that former councilor Valentine Moreno had labeled "fraudulent."

The twelve councilors present for the vote acted in unprecedented fashion in a situation that seemingly called for high rolling politics or perhaps, pre-election grandstanding.

The 12-0 ballot in Caputo's favor exonerated him from charges that he had falsified his resume. Caputo had called the "special meeting to clear the air and to assure the Council that he came in to this community in good faith and not under false pretenses. Judging from that vote, he convinced them of just that.

As one councilor flatly remarked prior to the meeting: "the only thing I'm concerned about is did Peter Caputo lie to us when we hired him. If he believed he had the college degree and the masters credits at that time, then I'll vote to keep him in office."

Post meeting discussions with various councilors gave me the impression that this very line was drawn in the meeting: Did Caputo fib or did he tell the truth about his resume?

In wording their resolution the Council spelled out that Caputo does not possess an accredited BA degree. He must forward his accumulated credits to an accredited institution for review. If necessary, the Council decreed, Caputo must continue his education to acquire a college degree.

The Council also believed that Caputo's "human error" did not injure the community and will not affect his ability to administer.

From Moreno's vantage point, the Council "whitewashed" the affair solely because of political reasons and not because of support for Peter Caputo. But why a 12-0 vote? Was it Moreno's credibility on the firing line or was it Caputo's?

For myself, I look at the vote as being a little compromise on his education, a little politicking and an acknowledgement that Caputo has done a good job at directing municipal affairs.

And in supporting Caputo and the town manager form of government previously in this space, I maintain that the Council's 12-0 ballot, put a messy issue to bed and served the community's best interests at this time.

What happens after November 6th is up to the voters. More on this latter.

### A Study is Needed

Common sense dictates that before any new expenditure of this type is undertaken, a study of all youth oriented programs and what they offer the community would be warranted.

From this study, our elected officials could determine where the need lies, if in fact there is a need. It would also give the Council an idea of how many kids do participate as compared to how many are not being reached.

Besides, how can the Council justify spending \$10,000 for this proposal when earlier this summer they shut the lights off at the two public tennis courts and the facilities at Borgatti Park. I'll wager that the number of adults who need these facilities and have used them in the past far outnumbers the total amount of "street children" that would ever benefit from such an expenditure.

### Strengthen Existing Programs

If the Council is indeed in a spending mood, then perhaps they should give Jack Kunasek the money to strengthen existing programs and not add another one.

School department officials tell us that by 1983, Peirce School in Feeding Hills and Danahy School in North Agawam will not longer function as academic facilities.

Why not look into attaining private and federal backing to turn those two buildings into worthwhile enterprises when the time comes? If need be, town hall could kick in a few bucks; but they certainly should not sponsor a program that may fizzle or cost more money by the next fiscal year.

True, the after hours recreation center may be a sincere proposition, but there comes a time when town hall's responsibility is no longer that...a responsibility.

### Responsibility Being Met

This responsibility to the youth is being met by the municipality and is certainly being met by the many fine organizations in Agawam. From where we sit, the Council should say "no" to this new expense and not fall under the pressure of November's thunder.





## Legal Lines

by Atty. René Thomas

Will the house you are about to buy become a source of great joy or never-ending headaches?

The only way of avoiding the potential problems with a home is to have a written agreement that covers the following points: 1. Any personal property (carpeting, rugs, T.V. antenna, etc.) that goes with the house should be identified; 2. A clause that relates the buyer obtaining a mortgage commitment by a specified date at specified terms; 3. A clause that relates to testing the house for wood boring insects, structural defects, testing the septic tank system, testing the well-water system, and determining who will pay to correct any problems; 4. A written statement by the sellers concerning the existence or non-existence of a water problem in the basement; 5. If points are to be paid to a financial institution for a mortgage, who will pay them. Many people selling homes learn to their dismay they agreed to pay some bank to enable the buyer to obtain a mortgage, and 6. A written statement by the sellers that the house conforms to existing by-laws.

This checklist is, by no stretch of the imagination, complete. I could have included other items, but these mentioned are a common source of disputes between buyers and sellers of homes.

These problem areas indicate, as I pointed out in my prior, column, the importance of reviewing the written "Purchase and Sales Agreement" in detail with your attorney prior to signing anything.

If a potential buyer of a home knows what problems to look for, the chances are very good that the purchase of a home will truly be your dream house rather than your nightmare.

## Connelly Lauds Law to Increase Home Rule

"It's a first important step for cities and towns that have been fighting the shackles of state mandates," Rep. Edward W. Connelly said Monday.

He was lauding the signing of a law that will allow towns the option to withdraw from previously accepted local option statutes.

The proposal is one facet of a plan sponsored by the Special Legislative Commission on the Effects of State Mandated Programs to which Connelly had been appointed. The commission has been working for a year and a half on bills aimed at increasing home rule for cities and town and controlling mandates.

The legislation, signed into law by Governor Edward J. King, essentially allows communities to rescind their previous acceptance of local option state statutes.

One of these statutes for towns, not cities, is civil service. It's also the most controversial. Other examples of state statutes which local communities accept and, until now, have been unable to rescind, are establishment of boards and commissions, career incentive programs and other personnel provisions.

Other proposals drawn up by the commission are still awaiting legislative action. They include a bill which would give communities an avenue of appeal to state mandates which are unfunded and another so-called sunset proposal calling for elimination of state agencies and departments deemed unnecessary by review.

"The signing of the initial bill is the first concrete move in the right direction for cities and towns," Connelly said.

The problem with civil service has been its overlap

with collective bargaining to the disadvantage of management and the bureaucracy and confusion of the program at the state level.

As a result, some employees get two hearing procedures, he said.

The overall legislation allows a community to repeal a local option statute by the same method used to adopt it...a majority vote of the Town Meeting or City Council, of via the annual ballot.

Civil service provisions are adopted on the ballot, therefore, any attempt to rescind civil service statutes in towns would have to come before voters.

If Town Meeting rescinds a local option statute, voters would have the option, by voter petition, to bring the issue to the ballot at the next election and try to reverse the Town Meeting action.

Currently, if a community wants to rescind its previous acceptance of a local option statute, it must file a special bill and get legislative approval.

This defeats home rule and is a cumbersome and lengthy process, Connelly contends.

As part of his tax cap legislation, Governor King proposed giving communities the right to repeal civil service. By the time the tax cap was passed, however, that provision had been stricken from it.

Repeal of other local option statutes, excepting civil service, was granted to local communities through the tax cap. That right is scheduled to expire in June, 1981. The new law makes the provision permanent. It takes effect in July, 1981 and includes civil service.

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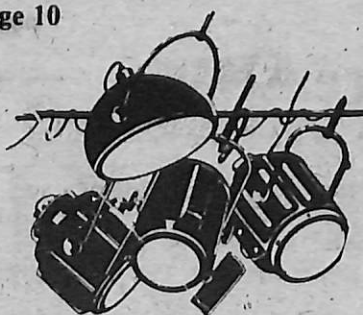
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## Spotlight on Business

Dance Arts will be opening its doors on September for the teaching of pre-ballet, ballet, and modern dance. Located at 379 Walnut Street Ext., Agawam, Dance Arts will offer instruction in all levels of dance from beginners through advanced, and for all ages.

The director, Deborah Wright Haskins, received her early dance training in Pittsfield from Madeline Cantarella Culp and at Jacob's Pillow from Margaret Craske. Her first professional performing experience came when at ages 12 and 13 she was chosen to appear with the Bolshoi Ballet in their ballet "Ballet School."

She was later accepted as a dance major at the Juilliard School in New York City where she studied ballet under Anthony Tudor and Alfredo Corvino and modern dance with Helne McGehee and Betty Jones. Since 1972, she has been a faculty member of the Cantarella School of Dance as well as a soloist and ballet mistress with the Berkshire Ballet. She founded the Berkshire Ballet's Junior Company and directed that group from 1974-76.

Realizing that each student of Dance Arts is there with a different goal in mind, Mrs. Haskins' aim is to give the best possible dance education, stressing a strong, disciplined technique, and instilling in each student an appreciation and love for the art.

Spotlight on Business is a weekly feature of the Advertiser/News in which we present to you new businesses - and not so new businesses in the Agawam area. The service is free of charge for our advertisers who appreciate your business.

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## Dance Arts Opens in Agawam



Deborah Wright Haskins

### Letters to Racing Commission Requested

Agawam Town Council President Richard Theroux and ACT Chairman Don Lazinski urge those citizens of Agawam who are opposed to the latest harness racing proposal write to: The Commonwealth of Mass. State Racing Commission; Attn: Dr. Paul Walsh, John W. McCormick State Office Building, 1 Ashburton Place, Boston, Mass. 02108.

### Pack 78 Car Wash Slated

Cub Scout Pack 78 of the Polish American Club is sponsoring a car wash to benefit the Pack on Saturday, September 8, 1979. The car wash, which will be accompanied by a bake sale, will be held on the Polish American Club's grounds on Southwick Street from 9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Cost of the car wash will be 99 cents. Please come out and support the scouts.

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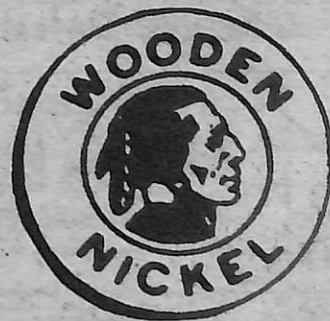
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## Down to Earth

by Janet Cook



Labor Day is right around the corner. This marks the spot on the calendar for returning your houseplants to their cozy winter home.....inside the house. If your houseplants have been outdoors all summer, I'm sure they have enjoyed all that fresh air and soft rain water. Well, as the nights get cooler, they won't be quite so happy. Before you bring them inside, it will be necessary to clean them completely, pots and all. Use the garden hose to give your plants a good bath to wash off insects pests, cobwebs and spattered mud. Check the soil surface for live-in toads. They enjoy sleeping under the foliage of large, fluffy plants. Scrub the pots with a stiff brush and rinse thoroughly. Don't forget the bottom of the pot if it has been sitting directly on the soil. Check it anyway for shy creepy-crawlers. Often, houseplants brought in from their summer vacation lose leaves or the leaves turn yellow and droop. This is caused by the lower level of light inside the house. Also, the moisture content of the air in the house is much less. The plants are trying to adjust to their new surroundings. To help them through this adjustment period, keep the soil on the dry side, watering only enough to prevent wilting. Give them only sufficient fertilizer to prevent hunger signs. Remember that the lower the level of light the plant gets, the lower the level of nutrients and moisture the plant requires. Plants can take up to four weeks to adjust to being back inside, so don't give up on them to soon. Some plants can be pruned to re-shape them and help them fit back into their spot in the house. This pruning will help the plant adjust and give it a pleasing shape in the bargain. Repot any that show signs of being pot-bound. If repotting isn't called for, replace the top two inches of old soil with fresh soil. If you can't do this, just scratching up the soil surface will help. This allows air to get down into the roots of the plant and helps promote new root growth. KEEP SMILING! JMC

## Park and Rec Field Day For M.D. A Success

On Wednesday August 15, 1979 the Parks and Recreation Department held their Annual Field Day and Penny Carnival for Muscular Dystrophy.

The day started with all types of competition between the playgrounds. The First Place Award went to Shea's field with 74 points followed by Clark with 39 points, Wade had 36 points, Phelps 27, and Borgatti had 23.

At noon time all children and playground leaders were treated to hot dogs, soda, ships and ice cream served by the hard working Agawam Lions Club.

Beginning at 1 p.m. all 6 playgrounds had special booths for games for 1 penny for the benefit of Muscular Dystrophy at the end of the Super Day the sum of \$93.75 was raised.

Playground Director for this summer was Phil Vecchiarelli. At Wade Park were Valerie Balboni, Angla Kolnicke, and Brian Rheault. At Shea's Field there were Jodi Ferraro, Lee Ann Mercadante, and Scott Raymond. At Borgatti Field there were Debbie Gagnon, Mary Rose McCaffery, and Randy Young. At Granger were Diane Farwell, Bill McClellan, and Steve Mercadante. At Clark was Lee Ann Hart, Scott Massoia and Barbara Plante. At Phelps were Dee Berkey, Janet Murray, and Peter Sardella.

The tennis instructors were Tim Scanlon and Rich Willis.

The Arts and Crafts were directed by Dori Parisien and assisted by Donna Cebrelli, Ann Liddell, and Lisa Rex.

This year the Pre-school Program for youths 3½-5 years of age was directed by Lynn Wysocki and assisted by Pat Longo.

The summer was a very active one for all involved. many new exciting adventures are being planned for next year. If there are any new ideas that you would like to see as a part of next years program contact the Parks and Recreation office.



## Our Feathered Friends

by Mary Os

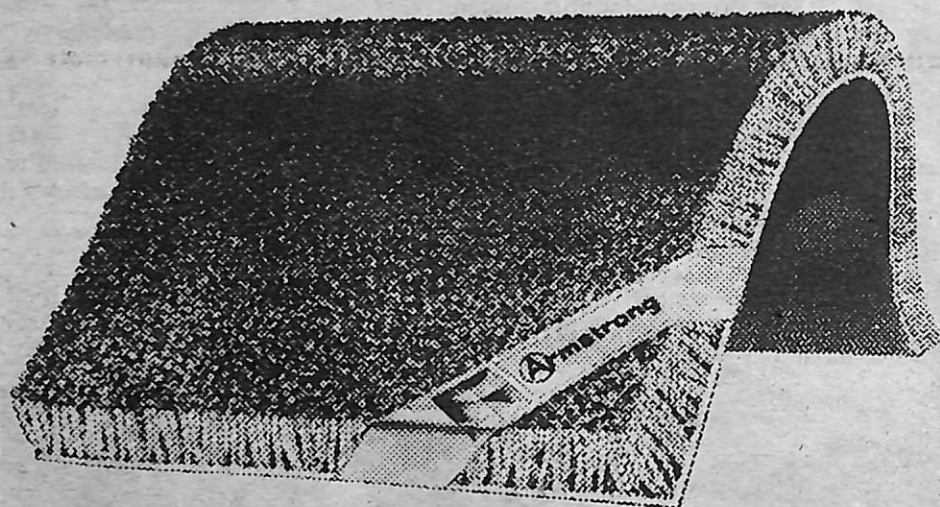
For a number of days I had been hearing the hard, metallic chip, chip, of what I knew to be a Cardinal. The sound was coming from within the woods near the house but I was unable to locate the source for some time. I think my main mistake was watching for the easily spotted bright red of the adult male.

Finally on afternoon I spotted the bird as it flew from the wooded area to a brush section way in the back of the yard. The bird tried to land on a stalk of golden rod which gave way under its weight and bent towards the ground. The bird fled the area for the safety of the woods. Having spotted what appeared to be a female seeking food in my yard, I quickly went out and stocked the platform feeder in the back with sunflower seed. Normally I do not put seed back there until the first killing frost, but I wanted to entice this bird to stay as I have been visited only once by a pair of Cardinals since putting up my stations over a year ago.

The next time the bird appeared I had my field glasses ready and when it went to the platform I had a good chance to observe it. The bird was a young male, sleek in his still immature brownish suit but with all the promise of a future bright red plumage. As Cardinals do not stand heat waves well, I was happy to provide this one with some easy food source in hopes that he will include my yard when he stakes out his territory.

All Cardinals are native to the Americas with more species being found in the southern hemisphere. It is illegal to capture these birds in this country. The Cardinal is a popular cage bird in England but the British must buy most of their pets from Mexico. In the southern states where the bird is plentiful, it is not unusual to see them frequently.

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# Sports

## Booster Club Plans Busy Season

The Agawam Football Booster Club, a group of active supporters of the high school's varsity football contingent, are making preparations for what appears to be the best and most exciting football season since 1966.

Booster Club spokesman Albert Bonavita, assured the Advertiser/News that the organization will do everything in its power to promote the Brownies' 1979 season.

Besides a planned macaroni supper and the second annual Thanksgiving Day breakfast, the Boosters will sponsor a weekly column on the sports page of the Advertiser/News. The weekly feature will picture the Brownies' outstanding offensive and defensive performers of each Saturday afternoon encounter. Varsity coach Jack Michalak and his staff have been chosen to make the selection in each category.

As a bonus, the Booster Club, with the support of local merchants will issue each weekly star a gift certificate for the Showcase Cinemas.

Bonavita said the club has already provided the gridiron crew with \$100 in T-shirts.

Formed last year, the Booster Club's active support of the locals coincided with Agawam's best overall season in twelve years. The Brownies checked in with a fine 7-3-1 mark and attendance at both home and away contests displayed a noteworthy increase over recent seasons.

As an added attraction to the Thanksgiving Day clash against ancient rival West Side, the Boosters will award a special trophy to the team's outstanding lineman and backfield performers. Last year's winners were Gerry Mason and Mario Mercadante.

Offered Bonavita on this season's prospects, "just talking to Jack (Michalak) the enthusiasm for the coming season is so evident. The team has experience plus a good group of youngsters. They may lack some size but we're hopeful they will be as good as last year and perhaps, can bring the AA Conference title back to Agawam."

The hometown favorites placed second to the undefeated Westfield Bombers in AA competition one year ago. Many Brownie faithful contend that the Bombers' 19-12 decision over Agawam, the locals' lone setback in league competition, was unconvincing and left a question as to who was the better team.

The Boosters have scheduled an organizational meeting Wednesday evening, September 5th, at the Bonavita residence on 51 Dartmouth Street. All interested gridiron buffs are welcome to attend.

Top club members include Rolland Mercadante, Kenneth Barnes, William Kozak, Robert Strinse and former Agawam High stars of yesteryear Joseph Pisano and Gerry Mason.

For further information on the 1979 Booster Club call Al Bonavita at 786-5463.

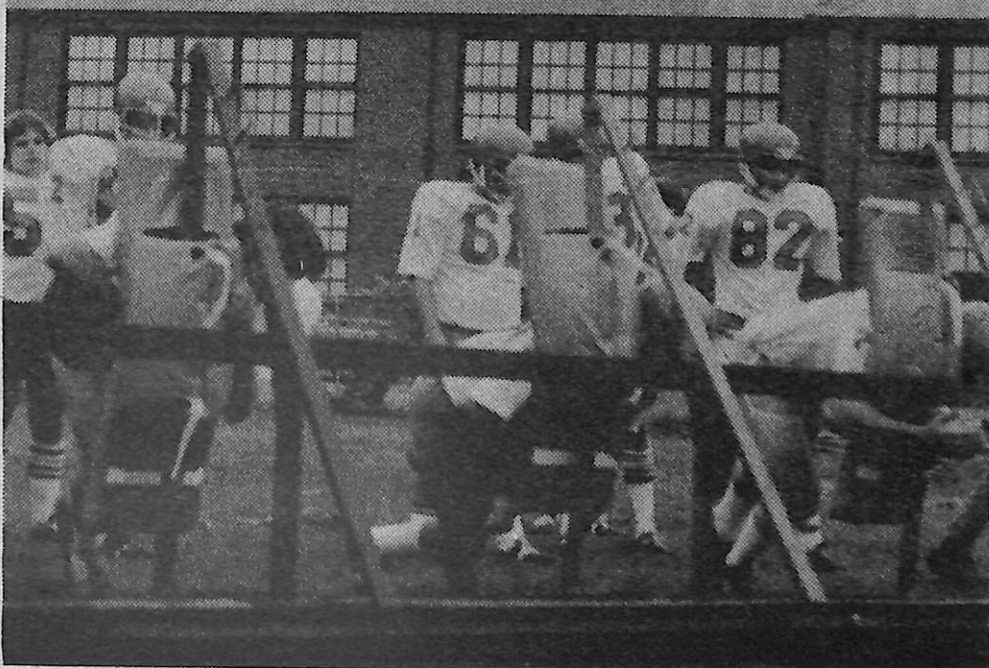
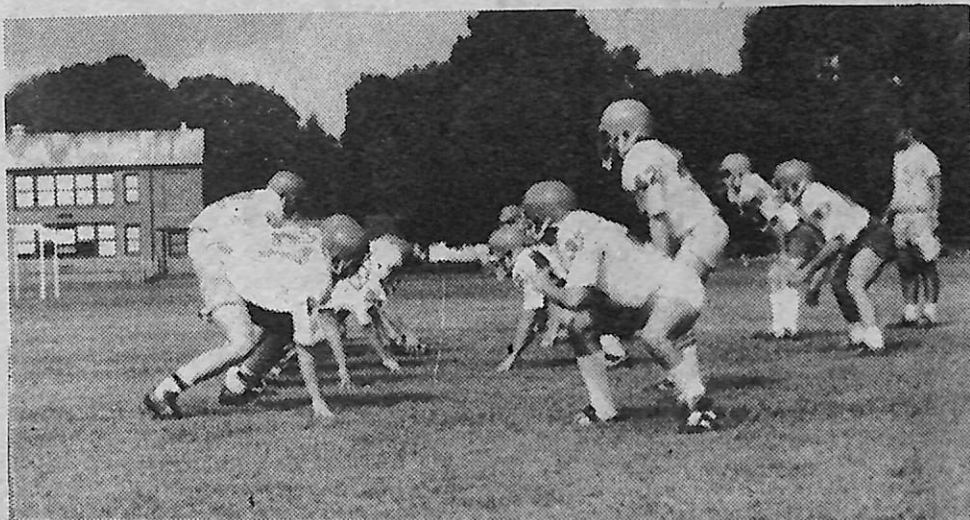
## Brownies Prepare for Winning Season

*The end of those lazy days of summer...second year coach Jack Michalak is whipping his charges into tip-top condition in anticipation of the upcoming campaign. A second place finisher in his rookie season at the Brownie helm, Michalak feels confident that the gridiron will again hold many winning moments against tough AA opponents. Don't miss the boat, read the Advertiser/News and follow the fortunes of Agawam football 1979.*



Booster spokesman,  
Al Bonavita

photos by GAL





## Tri-County Baseball

### Cardinals Blow Out In Two Straight

by Rich Willis

Sound pitching is the key to any championship team and that's what the Westfield-Agawam Cardinals ran up against in the first round of the Tri-County League playoffs. The Cardinals were eliminated by Central Chevrolet in two straight games in their best of three series.

For the Westfield-Agawam it marked the end of a successful first year under Coaches Don Irzyk and Rick Mastroianni. Central Chevrolet will advance to the finals to oppose East Longmeadow Leasing who upended pennant winner Chicopee Falls in their first round playoff series.

The Cardinals watched their championship hopes die as they were unable to mount an offensive attack in either game against Central Chevrolet hurlers. Central took the opening game 6-1 and game two by a score of 3-1.

First time playoff jitters were evident in the Cardinals opening game loss. After Central had taken a 1-0 lead in the first inning, the Cardinal defense made some costly mistakes which lead to two unearned runs. Central tacked on three more runs in the sixth inning, again taking advantage of Cardinal misques. Westfield-Agawam's only run came in the last inning on a John Griffen RBI single. Butch Lemagdelane took the loss with relief help from Paul Grammarosa.

Game two took on the same look as game one with Central jumping out to an early lead, then relying on their pitching strength to hold on. Once again the pitching did come through. The Cardinals could only manage one run on three hits while Central tagged Cardinal starter and loser Don Irzyk for three runs on seven base hits. Westfield-Agawam's one run scored in the third inning on consecutive singles by Lou Conte, Rick Mastroianni and Joe Seckler.

Lou Conte led the team in hitting throughout the regular season with forty basehits and a .360 average. Alex Massel swung the bat at a .324 clip. Jack Dougherty (.375) and Rick Mastroianni (.304) hit well for the Cardinals, but each player had only 56 at bats.

In the pitching department Don Irzyk paced the staff with six wins. His record was 6-3 with a 2.81 earned run average. Dave Barnard (3-2, 1.79 ERA), Butch Lamagdelane (3-3, 2.10 ERA, Steve Mercadente (3-2, 3.16 ERA) Paul Grammarosa (5-3, 4.01 ERA) combined to form a very effective pitching staff all year.

Mark Guindon behind the plate, Lou Conte at short, Craig Plante at second and Dave Stefano in centerfield gave the Cardinals a strong defensive combination up the middle. The Cardinal's final 1979 record was 20-16.

### Hockey Coaches Announced

The Agawam Hockey Association will begin their tryouts on Thursday September 13, 1979. The coaches for the '79-'80 season are: Bob Guevin [6-8], Tom Walczak [8-10], Mike Byrne [10-12A], Larry Bouchard [10-12B], Preston Perrault [12-14], and Chuck Petrucci [14-16]. Anyone that is interested in playing hockey may call 786-7747 for more information. More teams and

coaches will be announced if there are enough additional registered players.

### Agawam Hockey Sign-Ups

Anyone interested in playing hockey for the Agawam Hockey Association should call 786-7747 (between 9-5 daily).

The Association will accept registrations for anyone between the ages of 6-16.

The 1978-1979 board members are as follows: Lou Guevin, president, Dick Mercure, vice president, Phil Shuman, treasurer, Sandy Blanchard, secretary, Nancy Farrell, fin. secretary, Larry Bouchard, player-coach co-ordinator, Rich Hill, ice co-ordinator, Steve Silvia, ways and means, Judy Buearegard, equipment manager, and Pat Guevin, publicity director.

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**Village Lounge	16	8
Bucc's	16	8
Showcase	16	8
Italian Sporting Club	13	11
Buccaneer Lounge	12	12
Gove Realty	10	14

B DIVISION	W	L
** Agawam A's	19	7
Silver Carriage	18	8
Gary's Auto	15	11
Marchegian Club	14	12
Agawam Moose Club	12	14
Elbow Lounge	8	18
Jessica's Lounge	7	19
Village Lounge	6	20
Buccaneer Lounge	2	24
Jospeh Liquors	2	24

B NATIONAL	W	L
* Valley Knife	22	4
Agawam Turners	21	6
Spartan Saw	19	8
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## Kunasek Seeks Soccer Coaches

Wanted: Two local residents to coach a girls Park and Rec 9-14 soccer team and a boys 9-11 squad. Must be good with kids, somewhat aware of the game's rules and regulations, preferably with previous playing experience...but it's not necessary. Call 786-0400 for further information. We are in dire need now, so please, volunteer some time to your community and its children.

Park and Rec Director Jack Kunasek was not placing a classified with the Advertiser/News, but if he did, it would have read something like the above.

We join in Kunasek's plea. The town's fall soccer program is a good one and is enjoyed by many local youngsters. It is serviced by many dedicated townsfolk.

But there is a shortage of coaches. Kunasek needs two, and fast. Other league squads are preparing for the fall slate, but two groups of would-be Pele's are watching patiently on the sidelines.

Why not call Kunasek's office today? Coaching kids is an experience. Sometimes the adventure makes us reach for the Excedrin or Alkaseltzer...but other times, times when years later we look at those team pictures, we know it was all worth it.

So c'mon folks. Get those kids on the field.

## STOCK CAR RACES

By Larry Bouchard



## Riverside Speedway... Rained Out

Riverside Park Speedway was rained out once again, but not before two qualifying heats were run and the consolation race partially completed. The cancellation of Saturday night's program marked an unprecedented three straight rain-outs and a total of six for the 1979 season.

Charlie Glazier won the first qualifying heat, while defending track champion Stan Greger of New Britain, Conn., placed first in the second heat.

The previous three rain-outs present an exciting challenge to the drivers. All top five drivers have a chance to take home the track championship when they meet for the 100-lap, double-point season finale this Saturday night. Just 36 points separate point leader Reggie Ruggiero of Forestville, Conn., from former NASCAR national modified champ Jerry Cook of Rome N.Y., who currently sits in the fifth spot.

Here's how the point standings look: Reggie Ruggiero, 236; Richie Evans, 226; Ray Miller, 224; Stan Greger, 220; Jerry Cook, 200; Ed Flemke, 146; S.J. Evonsion, 124; Bob Stefanik, 116; Ron Wyckoff, 100; and Bill Greco, 92.

The "fireworks" all begin with the first qualifying heat at 7:30 p.m. Saturday night. The RIVERSIDE PARK SPEEDWAY season comes to a close on Monday, Sept. 3, when once again, the Demolition Derby takes to the track.

## Bouchard moves closer to Stafford's Winston Championship

Stafford Springs, Conn: Ron Bouchard of Fitchburg, Mass. drove his M&H Tire Pinto to a hard fought victory in the 30 lap NASCAR Winston Racing Series feature here Friday night at Stafford Motor Speedway before 3,018 fans. Meanwhile, Mike Stefanik of Wilbraham, Mass. claimed the Sportsman event for the tenth time this season, locking up the championship for that division while Gary Zelinka of Stafford Springs won his first ever Street Stock feature.

The modified feature was barely underway when a multi car accident in the first turn brought the race to a halt. Vinnie Annarummo, John Rosati, Brian Ross, S.J. Evonsion and Mark Fleury were unable to continue after the mishap. On the new start, Ken Bouchard put the Kosezela Speed Equipment Pinto in the lead as Ron Bouchard, Geoff Bodine and Richie Evans who had all gained positions due to the accident, were all running in the top five. On lap seven, Ron Bouchard went under

younger brother Ken as they duelled down the back stretch to take over the front spot. At the half way mark, it was Bouchard, Bodine and Evans running nose to tail when the race was halted due to a brief shower.

When racing resumed, Bouchard continued to hold off Bodine in the Lee Allard Pinto until lap 27 when Geoff went under Bouchard in turn one. The caution was out again before the lap was completed, however, for a five car tangle in turn three triggered when Leo Cleary blew an engine. Bouchard reinherited the lead but on the restart, with the trio running in close formation, Evans and Bodine touched wheels sending the Lee Allard Pinto spinning into the wall between turns one and two. Bodine was able to restart at the tail of the field. Bouchard held off Evans' advances over the final two laps to take this third Stafford win of the season and a four point lead in the Winston Racing Series Championship point chase. Evans claimed second in the B.R. Dewitt Pinto over Ken Bouchard, Bodine and Jerry Pearl in the S&S Race Cars Vega completing the top five.

## \$26,000 posted for 200 at Stafford

George Kent, Jr. of Horseheads, N.Y. has become the first entry in the Labor Day, 10th Annual 200 at Stafford, a 200 lap NASCAR National Championship Event for modifieds at the Stafford Motor Speedway.

Kent, who has dominated modified racing at the Shangri La Speedway and also has won three events at Spencer Speedway, both in New York, will be making his first appearance at Stafford Motor Speedway this year.

Some 75 competitors will be looking for one of the thirty starting positions open in the \$26,905 event which attracts most all of the top stars in modified racing on the east coast.

NASCAR National Modified Champion Richie Evans, the nations winningest driver looks to be the early favorite based on his 8 victories here this season, but Stafford defending Winston Racing Series Champion Geoff Bodine, tow time feature winner Ron Bouchard, and Mark's Auto Parts 100 winner Charlie Jarzombek can't be counted out. Also to be considered is Maynard Troyer, who captured an unprecedented third Spring Sizzler victory here in April. Troyer (1975) and Bodine (1976 & '78) are former winners of the 200 at Stafford.

Other 200 winners expected to join the strong field of cars are Carl "Bugs" Stevens (1974), Leo Cleary (1973), Ed Flemke (1977), and Gene Bergin (1971 & '74). Stevens, Stafford all time feature winner (20 wins) is expected to unveil a brand new Troyer chassis Pinto for owner Joe Brady.

First Selectman of Stafford Springs, John Julian, has been named Grand Marshall for the 200 at Stafford and will issue the command to fire the engines.

Tickets will go on sale Monday at 10:00 a.m. while advance ticket holders will be admitted into the speedway at 9:00 a.m. Practice begins at 10:00 a.m. Time trials are set to start at 1:00 p.m. and the first qualifying heat scheduled to start at approximately 2:00 p.m.

Stafford Motor Speedway is located on Route 140 in Stafford Springs, Ct. For further information, call (203) 684-2783.

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## Sportsmen's Corner

by Bill Chiba



Secretary of Environmental Affairs John A. Bewick and State Energy Office Director Joseph Fitzpatrick have announced two major fuelwood programs on state forests and parks land to help citizens cope with the energy situation. Both programs will be administered by the Department of Environmental Management, under Commissioner Richard E. Kendall, through the Division of Forests and Parks.

The two programs include the popular Cut-A-Cord Program, enabling Massachusetts residents to cut one to three cords of wood per household annually, and a new program known as the Massachusetts Home Fuelwood Program, aimed at people who heat their homes primarily with wood, necessitating 8-10 cords annually.

Secretary Bewick remarked, "These fuelwood programs, conducted on the 250,000 acres of public woodland in the state forests and parks system, not only help people with obtaining wood, but actually accomplish needed woodland improvement, which in the long run ensures a continuing supply of firewood and increases the quality of forest products."

The Department of Environmental Management's Cut-A-Cord program will run from September 14 to November 18 this year, Commissioner Kendall has announced.

Commissioner Kendall explained that the Home Fuelwood Program will allow citizens who heat primarily with wood to cut about 10 cords of wood on state land. The 10-cord lots are for sale on a competitive bid basis to both state residents and non-residents.

The program differs from the Cut-A-Cord program in that it is year-round, and the areas marked are somewhat less accessible, necessitating a four-wheel drive or truck to reach the area and extract the wood.

An estimated 5,000 cords of wood will be marked in this program throughout the coming year, and as the 10-cord lots become available, they will be advertised publicly by the regional office. A \$1.00 non-refundable filing fee is required of state residents, while a \$20.00 filing fee is required of non-residents.

Each forests and park area is managed by a regional office, of which there are five across the state for more information on both the Cut-A-Cord and the Home Fuelwood Programs, contact the regional office for Hampden, Hampshire, and Franklin counties at the Amherst Nursery, at the University of Mass. (413) 549-1461.

## Agaway Jaycees Softball Marathon

The Jaycees will go to bat for those who can't on Friday, August 31, at 7:00 p.m. The Jaycees will stay on the field through 7:00 p.m. on Saturday, September 1 in their annual 24-HOUR SLO-PITCH SOFTBALL MARATHON at Borgatti Field on River Road in Agawam. This is the third consecutive year for the event which has netted over \$2,000 for charity. According to project chairmen, Ted Zern and Gary Hodge, one of the major obstacles this year was the Town's decision to discontinue lighting at the park. Through the courtesy of WMECO, however, the Jaycees will again be able to go to bat.

Local softball teams have already begun inquiring about playing the Jaycees. Such softball units as Southworth Paper Women's Team, Springfield Newspapers, The Blue Magic, and National Blank Book will take the field for one hour of softball as only the Jaycees can play it. Students from W.N.E.C. and Westfield State have also offered the Jaycees a challenge. Any team, organized or otherwise, who wish to play one hour of unforgettable softball anytime from 7:00 p.m., August 31, to 7:00 p.m., September 1, should contact Ted Zern at 786-1679. Minimum donations of \$25.00/team will be accepted. All proceeds netted in this project will be given to the children's charity. Don't forget the Agawam Jaycees 24-Hour Softball Marathon on August 31 and September 1. You haven't lived until you've played in your 24th consecutive game.



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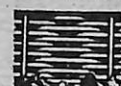
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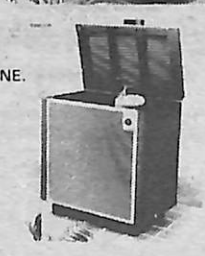
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